

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 06720 140945Z

13/12

ACTION SAB-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SS-20 L-03 INR-10 A-01 PM-07

CPR-02 OPR-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /065 W

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R 132133Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6720

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR CAPTION

FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER FROM AMBASSADOR SAYRE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJ: USE OF PANAMANIAN LICENSE PLATES ON POV IN CZ

1) SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER TACK IS INTERESTED IN PROPOSAL TO USE PANAMANIAN LICENSE PLATES ON PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES REGISTERED IN CANAL ZONE IF ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE AT ADMINISTRATIVE AS OPPOSED TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL.

2) AS YOU REQUESTED I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER ON DEC. 5 IF HE COULD DETERMINE WHAT TORRIJOS HAD IN MIND IN SUGGESTING TO SECRETARY OF ARMY THAT ALL VEHICLES IN CANALZONE USE PANAMANIAN LICENSE PLATES. I EXPLAINED TO HIM, A) THAT USG WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO AGREE OUTSIDE OF NEW TREATY TO CHANGE EXISTING PRACTICES ON OFFICIAL VEHICLES, B) THAT 1903 TREATY EXEMPTS USG EMPLOYEES IN CZ FROM TAXES, CHARGES, ETC., C) THAT USG NOW PAID ABOUT \$3 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR STREETS IN ZONE WHICH PANAMANIAN USE FREELY IN ACCORDANCE 1903 TREATY AND WE CONSIDERED THAT CZ RESIDENTS ENTITLED TO RECIPROCITY. I ALSO NOTED OTHER AGREEMENTS BESIDES 1903 TREATY
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APPLICABLE TO USG USE OF PANAMANIAN HIGHWAYS.

3) FOREIGN MINISTER CONSIDERS PROPOSAL POLITICALLY USEFUL IF PROPERLY HANDLED: A) IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PART OF PROCESS OF ARRIVING AT NEW RELATIONSHIP AND NOT SIMPLY COMESTIC. PANAMA SEEKS EVENTUALLY AN ARRANGEMENT IN WHICH PRIVATE U S CITIZENS ARE ON SAME FOOTING AS PANAMANIAN WITH RESPECT TO PAYMENT FOR USE OF PANAMANIAN STREETS AND HIGHWAYS, B) PUBLIC EXPLANATION WOULD BE AGREED BETWEEN US AND PANAMA AND WOULD BE AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, GOP CANNOT ACCEPT POLITICALLY PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT ZONE RESIDENTS WOULD NOT BE PAYING GOP FOR LICENSE PLATES, C) PROPOSAL SHOULD BE WORKED OUT AT ADMINISTRATIVE AS OPPOSED TO POLITICAL OR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL. THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO HAVE POLITICAL SANCTION. FOREIGN MINISTER HAS IN MIND ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CZ CIVIL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR AND GN DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC AND TRANSIT.

4) FOREIGN MINISTER HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH TORRIJOS

ONCE AND APPARENTLY DESIRES DISCUSS IT AGAIN BEFORE HE INDICATES WHETHER HE CONSIDERS IT POLITICALLY POSSIBLE TO GO AHEAD WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT. I TOLD HIM TIME VERY SHORT (ZONE CHANGES PLATES JANUARY 1) AND HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ADVISE ME BY DECEMBER 15. YOU MAY DESIRE TO DISCUSS WITH KOREN OR SECRETARY OF ARMY WHETHER IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSAL. SAYRE

NOTE BY OC/T: ACTION CHANGE MADE DUE TO ADDITION OF CAPTION.

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LICENSE PLATES, HIGHWAYS, TAXES, TAX RELIEF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731227/aaaaatka.tel
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
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30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: USE OF PANAMANIAN LICENSE PLATES ON POV IN CZ 1) SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER TACK IS INTERESTED IN
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005